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ABSTRACT

This publication highlights some of the activities that have been successful career exploration experiences for students. The activities are in response to the Ohio Division of Vocational and Career Education's goal of improving sex equity in vocational and technical education programs. Five activities are described: Career Awareness Program (Jackson Local Schools), which provides a career orientation for ninth-grade students on a voluntary sign-up basis; Exploring Nontraditional Job Opportunities (Gordon D. James Career Center, Warren), a workshop offered to eighth-grade students; Improving Sex Equity through Career Orientation (North Canton City Schools), a program that offered sixth- and eighth-grade students an opportunity to tour their vocational programs and learn about the course selection process; Career Day--Exploring Traditional and Nontraditional Opportunities (W.E. Stebbins High School, Dayton), a workshop on sex-role stereotyping and job exploration for freshman and sophomore students and three different career sessions; and World of Work Program (Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School), which offered seventh- and eighth-grade students a chance to experience 10 different vocational areas. Each description concludes with the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person. (YLB)

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TIP SHEET: VOCATIONAL EXPLORATION FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-10

Center for Sex Equity
The Ohio State University
College of Education
Instructional Materials Laboratory

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Tip Sheet: Vocational Exploration for Students in Grades 7-10

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Vocational education provides students with the technical knowledge, work skills, and hands-on experiences necessary to succeed and advance in the job market. In order for students to make informed decisions regarding vocational education, a variety of career orientation and exploration activities can be planned in grades 7-10. These activities help enhance students' perceptions of the world of work and expand their awareness of possible career options. This publication highlights some of the activities which have been successful career exploration experiences for students. These activities are in response to the Division of Vocational and Career Education's goal of improving sex equity in vocational and technical education programs. This goal can only be accomplished through efforts at the local level to reduce sex discrimination and stereotyping in all vocational education programs and activities. For more information about a specific project, telephone the contact person.

JACKSON LOCAL SCHOOLS: CAREER AWARENESS PROGRAM This program was designed to provide a unique career orientation for ninth grade students on a voluntary sign-up basis. It offered students an increased exposure to careers and an opportunity to learn about the skills and activities associated with a number of career clusters. This program was planned to reduce job stereotypes before students entered the high school so it took place in June immediately after students graduated from eighth grade. Approximately 30 students attended six different sessions that lasted two hours each. They were introduced to the actual tools, materials, and processes that technicians, office managers, and professional people work with everyday. Overall results have been very positive and plans are being made to continue this program. Other plans for this year include the utilization of career speakers in the seventh and eighth grade classes. Contact Gerald Streator, Jackson Local Schools, 7600 Fulton Drive, Massillon, OH 44646 (216-837-3501).

This is your first copy of the Tip Sheet. You will receive five more Tip Sheets this year. We hope you will find them useful and informative.

GORDON D. JAMES CAREER CENTER: EXPLORING NONTRADITIONAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES This workshop was offered to 80 eighth grade students. Sex-role stereotyping was discussed in large group sessions utilizing handouts and student response sheets. The filmstrip *Jobs and Gender* was shown and discussed by participants. Following the large group sessions, students attended smaller sessions in two vocational programs. They chose one traditional and one nontraditional program. During these 45-minute sessions, students performed hands-on activities that allowed them to learn about that particular vocational choice. In 1986, a laboratory experience will provide 290 seventh grade students similar opportunities. Also, a four-hour workshop is planned for 80 teachers (kindergarten to high school) to expose them to nontraditional careers. For more information call Vic Bell, 1776 Saltsprings Road, Warren, OH 44481 (216-824-2588).

NORTH CANTON CITY SCHOOLS: IMPROVING SEX EQUITY THROUGH CAREER ORIENTATION This program offered 350 sixth and eighth grade students an opportunity to tour their vocational programs and learn more about the course selection process. Principals and teachers from the elementary and middle schools were given the opportunity to participate in two 45-minute hands-on vocational experiences of their choice. Parents of the students in the tenth grade were given background information about the vocational programs and the opportunity to talk to the vocational instructors. This program will be repeated this year and will include new teachers. In addition, a brochure explaining vocational programs is being developed. For more information contact Joe Shurilla, 525 Seventh Street NE, North Canton, OH 44720 (216-499-1200).

W.E. STEBBINS HIGH SCHOOL: CAREER DAY–EXPLORING TRADITIONAL AND NONTRADITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES A workshop on sex-role stereotyping and job exploration was attended by 600 freshmen and sophomore students. Students then attended three different career sessions. Both male and female presenters from 39 career areas were secured for the sessions. In concluding this Career Day, students gathered as a group to view a filmstrip entitled *Jobs and Gender* and to receive a copy of the handbook *Preparing For a Career through Vocational Education at Stebbins High School.* For more information contact Bob Montgomery, 1900 Harshman Road, Dayton, OH 45424 (513-233-5161).

ASHTABULA COUNTY JOINT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL: WORLD OF WORK PROGRAM This program offered 76 seventh and eighth grade students a chance to experience ten different vocational areas first-hand. Each day for two weeks during the summer, groups of seven to ten students attended four-hour sessions in different career fields. Students worked on projects and operated equipment in areas of auto mechanics, electricity, cosmetology, printing, auto body repair, data processing, food service, carpentry, retail sales, and health services. The results of the pre- and post-scan of vocational interests indicated that a change of preference occurred after being exposed to actual activities in that area. The primary goal of this program was to inform students of career choices in nontraditional occupations. This program was so successful that it has now been expanded to include ninth grade students. For more information contact Jerry Smith, Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School, 1565 Route 167, Jefferson, OH 44047 (216-576-6015).